A Transferable Model of Stakeholder Partnerships for Addressing Nutrient Dynamics in Southeastern Watersheds

William G. Deutsch[1], David R. Bayne[1], and Luoheng Han[2]

[1]Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, 203 Swingle Hall, Auburn University, Alabama 36832
[2]Department of Geography, University of Alabama, 202 Farrah Hall, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487

Biographical Sketches of Authors
Bill Deutsch is an aquatic ecologist who has been a Research Fellow in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University for 16 years. Prior to that, he worked 11 years as a Research Biologist and Director of Aquatic Research for private environmental consultants in Pennsylvania. He has been the Program Manager for Alabama Water Watch since it began in 1992, and directs Global Water Watch through AU's International Center for Aquaculture and Aquatic Environments.

David Bayne is a limnologist who has been a Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University for 32 years. He has directed aquatic studies from more than 100 grants and contracts, and served as a resident fisheries advisor to the government of El Salvador through AU's International Center for Aquaculture and Aquatic Environments.

Luoheng Han has been an Assistant or Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Alabama for ten years. Prior to that, he worked nine years as a Teaching Assistant at the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies at the University of Nebraska and in the Department of Geography at the Northeast Normal University in China. He is widely published in the area of remote sensing for water quality analyses.

Abstract
A USDA-funded, three-year project (2003-2006) will integrate a variety of research, education and extension activities to provide relevant, locally-generated watershed information. Research will result in a comprehensive assessment of nutrient concentration and loadings in the Tallapoosa River system in Alabama and Georgia. It will also compare the cost-benefits of laboratory analyses, remote sensing and community-based water monitoring technologies for nutrient analyses. The data will be adapted for education and extension in the form of in-classroom curricula, teacher workshops, and a public display at a regional Environmental Center. The data will also be available to stakeholder groups through the Alabama Water Watch and Alabama Cooperative Extension System websites. The project will have mutually-beneficial interactions with the state regulatory agency and the Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership, and should be adaptable for other southeastern watersheds.